

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 27, 2004. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 13-16 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 9, 11, and 13-16 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-17. The Examiner has indicated the reasons for allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, and 13-16 in accordance with the Examiner's concerns.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Applicant has amended claims 1, 9 and 13-16. Specifically, claim 1 now includes in part the claim element of "a feeding plate which by means of flexible lugs is in contact with the back sides of the clips and can be pushed forwards and backwards by means of a pushing device over at least a distance between one clip and ~~the~~ a next clip parallel to ~~the~~ a guiding groove of the magazine." Claim 1 as amended sets out particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity.

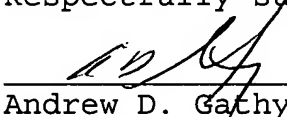
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With respect to dependent claims 9, 10 and 13-16, proper antecedent basis is provided in independent claim 1 and intervening claims depending therefrom.

In view of the above, entry of the present amendment and reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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